



**Saskatchewan
Environment and
Public Safety**

Annual Report 1991-92

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Environment and
Public Safety**

Table of Contents

	Page
Letters of Transmittal	3
Organization Chart	5
Acts and Regulations	6
Opportunities and Objectives	7
Mission, Vision and Values	9
The Year in Review:	
Environmental Assessment	11
The Process	11
Reforming the Process	13
Monitoring, Compliance and Enforcement	15
Air Quality	15
Water Quality	16
Land Protection	19
Mining	23
Public Safety	25
Emergency Response	28
Information and Education	30
Public Programs	30
School Programs	30
Technical Programs	34
Public and Stakeholder Involvement	36
Saskatchewan Round Table on Environment and Economy	36
Environmental Partnerships	37
Inter-agency Co-ordination	39

Table of Contents

continued

Environmental Management	41
Waste Management	41
Clean Air Strategy	43
The Great Sand Hills Land	43
Use Strategy	
Strategic Planning	44
 The Organizational Culture	45
Working Environment	45
Revenues and Expenditures	47

Letters of Transmittal

Her Honour
The Honourable Sylvia O. Fedoruk, O.C.,
S.O.M.
Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan



Your Honour:

It is my pleasure to submit to you the Annual Report for the Department of Environment and Public Safety for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1992.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol Carson".

Carol Carson
Minister

The Honourable Carol Carson
Minister of Environment and Public Safety

Dear Madam:

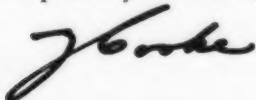
It is my pleasure to present to you the 1991-92 Annual Report for the Department of Environment and Public Safety.

During this past year, department staff have developed dynamic partnerships with Saskatchewan citizens to provide the shared leadership, incentive and cooperation vital to public safety and protection of the environment. Important and comprehensive strides have been made to create a central role for stakeholders in all policy and program delivery aspects of the department. Public consultations were held on landfill management, the Great Sand Hills Land Use Strategy, the Round Table on Environment and Economy's draft Conservation Strategy, and the reform of Saskatchewan's environmental assessment legislation and processes.

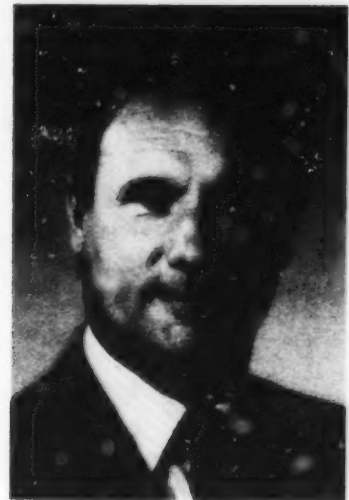
We have focused on encouraging and empowering the people of the province to take a greater responsibility for creating a sustainable future in Saskatchewan. Our leadership in protecting the environment has embraced the concept of sustainable development, reflective of the public's desire to integrate society's economic and environmental decisions.

Department staff have strived to be responsive, effective, open, progressive and innovative. Their dedication to ensuring that Saskatchewan's citizens enjoy a healthy and safe environment, maintaining the unique quality of life in our province, is worthy of recognition.

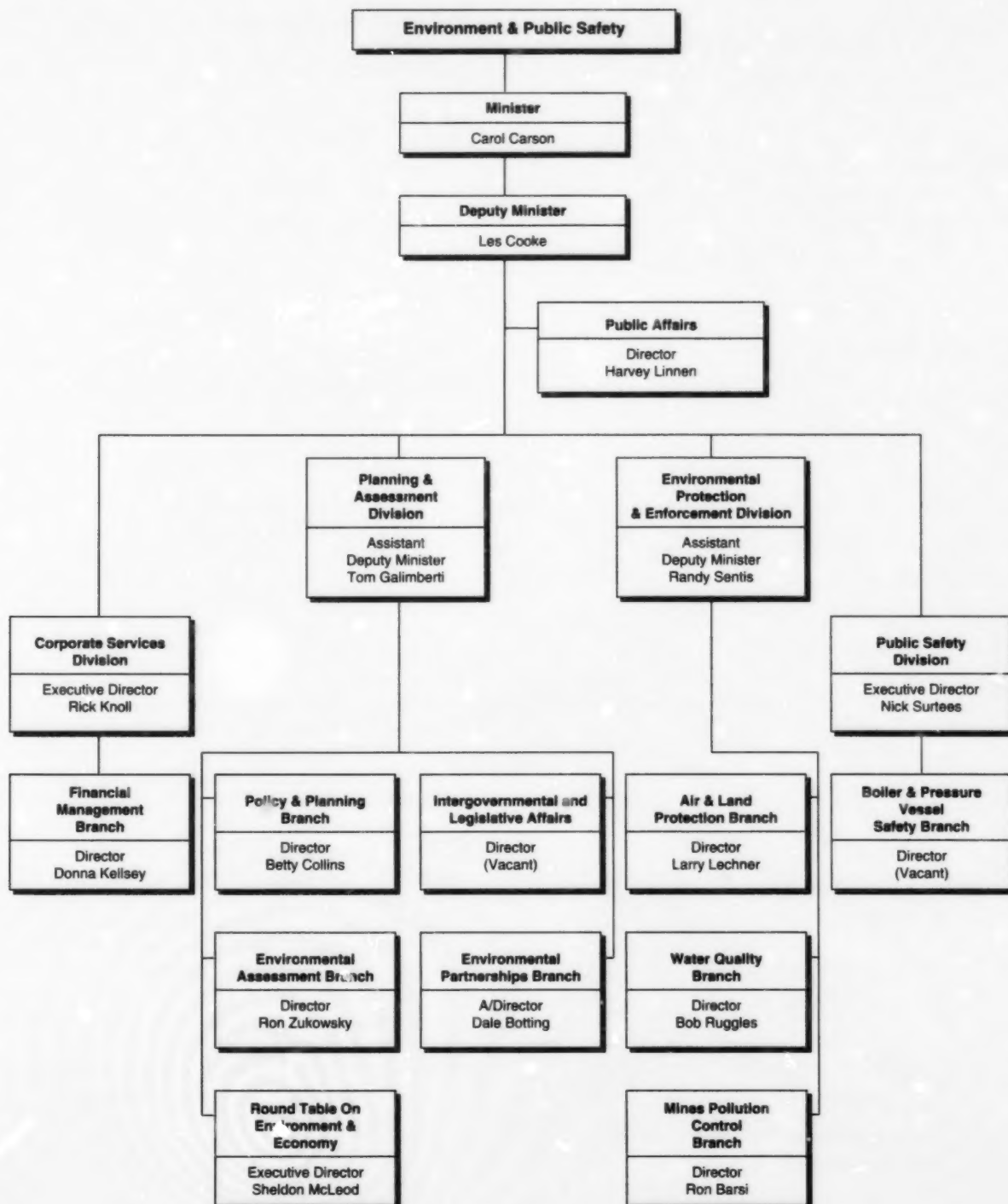
Respectfully submitted,



Les Cooke
Deputy Minister



Organization Chart



Acts and Regulations

The following acts and regulations were administered by Saskatchewan Environment and Public Safety in 1991-92:

Environment

The Clean Air Act

- The Clean Air Regulations
- The Potash Refining Air Emissions Regulations

The Ecological Reserves Act

- The Assiniboine Slopes Provincial Reserves Regulations
- The Qu'Appelle Coulee Provincial Ecological Reserves Regulations

The Environmental Assessment Act

The Environmental Management and Protection Act

- The Environmental Spill Control Regulations
- The Hazardous Substances and Waste Dangerous Goods Regulations
- The Mineral Industry Environmental Protection Regulations
- The Municipal Refuse Management Regulations
- The PCB Waste Storage Regulations
- The Water Pollution Control and Waterworks Regulations

The Environmental Management and Protection Consequential Amendments Act

The Litter Control Act

- The Litter Control Regulations
- The Litter Control Designation of Enforcement Officers Regulations
- The Designated Beverage Regulations
- The Designated Container Regulations, 1992
- The Summary Offences Procedure Regulations, 1991

The Ozone-depleting Substances Control Act

The State of the Environment Act

The Water Appeal Board Act

Public Safety

The Amusement Ride Safety Act

- The Amusement Ride Safety Regulations

The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Amendment Act

- The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Fees Amendment Regulations
- Regulations Respecting Anhydrous Ammonia
- Regulations Respecting Compressed Gas Pressure Vessels
- Regulations Respecting the Design, Construction, Installation and Use of Boilers and Pressure Vessels
- Regulations Respecting Examinations and Certificates of Engineers and Firemen
- Liquefied Propane Pressure Vessels and Distributing Plants Regulations
- Regulations Respecting the Welding of Boilers, Pressure Vessels and Pressure Piping

The Electrical Licensing Act

- The Electrical Contractor's Guarantee Bond Regulations
- The Electrical Licensing Exemption Regulations

The Gas Licensing Act

- The Gas Licensing Regulations

The Passenger and Freight Elevator Act

- The Passenger and Freight Elevator Regulations

Opportunities and Objectives

Public concern for the environment has risen sharply as people recognize its link to their personal safety. There is a heightened awareness of public safety risks and environmental problems such as air and water pollution, loss of natural species and habitat, increasing wastes, and the danger from hazardous substances. People have a greater sense of commitment to and demand for environmental action.

The challenges facing the department are to:

- protect the environment we have;
- develop the policies, legislation and strategies for the future;
- involve individuals and their institutions and organizations in the process of planning; and
- reassess the organization and operation of the department so we can meet these objectives.

To meet these challenges and the needs of the public, our clients and employees, we are developing a strategic plan to set the future direction for the department. The plan will outline our objectives and principles, and specific goals and workplans for each branch. A Strategic Vision Report was completed in September and sent to 160 stakeholders. It included our new vision, values and mission statements. An integral component of our Strategic Plan is public consultation. We met with more than 100 clients and stakeholders in public workshops to discuss the plan. During this same time, Key Results Area groups were formed to look at where the department wants to be in the future and recommend action plans for the department to achieve this. These are just the first steps. To make our Strategic Plan work we will be continually assessing our progress to ensure we are heading in the right

direction. Consultation with employees and other stakeholders will continue to play a major role in the success of our strategic plan.

The values of the department focus on protecting people and enhancing the environment. To accomplish this, we must continue to work in partnerships with others, and to fulfil our responsibilities with openness, honesty and dedication.

Out of this year's planning work, new leadership is developing in programs, policy and legislation:

- Reform of *The Environmental Assessment Act* and processes to reflect the values of the Saskatchewan public today;
- Amendments to *The Clean Air Act*, *The Ozone-Depleting Substances Act* and *The Environmental Management and Protection Act* to improve environmental protection;
- Work has begun on a comprehensive Waste Minimization Strategy and legislation for the province;
- Future policies will be based on the Saskatchewan Round Table on Environment and Economy's final Conservation Strategy for Sustainable Development in Saskatchewan to be presented to government in June 1992;
- Broader access for Saskatchewan people to environmental and educational material through the Environmental Resource Network which will be in place next year;
- Plans are underway for actions to improve landfill management throughout the province;
- Consultations have already begun on enhancing the beverage container system; and
- An inventory of contaminated sites will be prepared and developed in the new year with partnership-based clean-up strategies on a site by site basis.

We have met the challenges of this past year as a leader in ensuring the safety of the public and in promoting respect for the environment through responsible stewardship. We look forward to carrying on this role in meeting next year's opportunities with the same dedication and vision. A Four Year Action Plan for securing a sustainable future through partnerships will be prepared and shared with the public. This environmental agenda will build on five major themes:

- Environmental democracy
- Environmental protection and public safety
- Sustainable development
- Partnerships for environmental responsibility
- "Polluter Pay" principle of accountability

The Action Plan will set out the steps required to ensure a sustainable future and maintain our environmental quality of life in Saskatchewan.

The department's Mission, Vision and Values were developed by all staff through the Strategic Planning Process in 1991-92.

The Department's Mission

Saskatchewan's future
depends on the health of the environment.

We will protect and enhance
the environment and the safety
of the public.

We will encourage everyone
to take a greater responsibility
for creating a sustainable future.

Our Vision for the Future

A clean, healthy and safe environment maintains the
unique quality of life in Saskatchewan.
Our environment and economy exist in balance and harmony.

Global thinking and public participation characterize
the way we make our decisions.
We emphasize prevention through education
and individual responsibility.

We have earned the public's respect and support.
We do business with integrity, innovation and openness.

We are a caring department where people are inspired
to work with enthusiasm and pride,
and where excellence is valued.

The department is a leader in ensuring
the safety of the public and
in promoting respect for the environment
through responsible stewardship.

Our Values

We believe:

- in protecting and enhancing the environment;
- in balance and harmony between human activity and the environment;
- in the people who work in our department; they are its most important asset;
- in teamwork, partnerships and quality service;
- in excellence: fulfilling our responsibilities with integrity, honesty, dedication, and innovation;
- in openness through consultation and access to information; and
- in the fair application of Saskatchewan's laws, policies and programs.

Environmental Assessment

In accordance with *The Environmental Assessment Act*, the Environmental Assessment Branch reviews and evaluates the potential environmental effects of a proposed development before the project is allowed to proceed.

The branch administered *The Ecological Reserves Act* before transferring responsibility for the Ecological Reserve Program to a departmental integrated resource management team.

The branch also sat on inter-agency and inter-jurisdictional committees regarding multi-disciplinary environmental matters of importance to Saskatchewan.

The Process

Assessment officers examine plans for development activities to determine if environmental impacts resulting from the development are acceptable.

To do this the officers:

- alert developers of their responsibilities to provide information for consideration by the branch prior to the development occurring.
- review development proposals to help the developer identify and address potential environmental and socio-economic impacts.
- review Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) where required of a developer under *The Environmental Assessment Act*.
- deliver a public involvement process to ensure public input and comment on project specific guidelines and EIS's are provided.

- recommend to the Minister conditions which may be attached to a project approval to make it environmentally acceptable.
- audit project implementation to ensure compliance with the terms of approval granted and recommend appropriate action if compliance is not occurring.

During 1991-92, the Environmental Assessment Branch reviewed 84 development proposals. Of these, 44 were allowed to proceed without an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), 20 required an EIA and 20 required more information or were withdrawn from the process by the proponent. During the year six EIA's were completed.

A comprehensive listing and more information on each project is available on request.

Specific client groups consist of environmental interest groups, project proponents and the Saskatchewan public in general. The overall goal of the program is to provide for a clear, effective and efficient review process for the project proponents and to provide and facilitate ample and early opportunity for public interaction with the process and project reviews. The successful achievement of the overall goal requires the branch to work towards achieving a number of specific goals. These specific goals and the methods employed to reach them consist of the following:

Awareness

To create greater awareness of *The Environmental Assessment Act* and requirements the department:

- printed a brochure on the environmental assessment process;

- participated in a seminar on environmental assessment in the province;
- provided staff to give university courses;
- published articles on the process and notices of project proposals in the department newsletter; and
- published a quarterly report.

Fair and Efficient Operation

To achieve fair and efficient operation of the environmental assessment process the department:

- appointed the Manager of the Environmental Assessment Review to oversee operation;
- developed an Environmental Assessment Project Tracking System;
- adopted a practice of releasing project guidelines for new developments to the public for review before finalizing;
- listed project proposals in the department newsletter;
- increased and improved access to information;
- continued efforts to reach a screening decision for a project within a 30-45 day period.

Compliance

To achieve compliance with terms and conditions of approval the department:

- developed the compliance review process involving proponents and other departments;
- circulated approvals to other government regulatory agencies to follow-up and enforce compliance with regulations; and
- required environmental monitors as part of terms and conditions of approval.

Federal-Provincial Relations

To improve Federal-Provincial relations the department:

- initiated the first co-operative Joint Federal-Provincial Uranium Review Panel Inquiry;
- joined a committee to work towards clarifying and improving joint federal-provincial review; and
- worked towards greater joint co-operation in the review of several projects involving areas of federal jurisdiction.

Improved Procedures

To improve environmental impact assessment methods and procedures the department:

- increased opportunities for public involvement through making draft guidelines available for review, publishing project proposals received, and increasing access to information; and
- began to develop a provincial seismic guideline document which identifies requirements for all sensitive areas of the province.

Screening

To ensure all major developments are screened for environmental impacts the department:

- reviewed newspapers for new developments;
- reviewed oil and gas leases to identify potential development on sensitive lands;
- arranged with other government departments and agencies to inform the department of new projects;
- relied on Review Panel members to alert branch to new projects; and

- refined the screening system for municipal projects to provide better guidelines for which projects need to be referred for review.

Qu'Appelle Coulee Provincial Ecological Reserve

The department designated Qu'Appelle Coulee as Saskatchewan's second ecological reserve to protect a representative sample of valley environment and mixed prairie in the province's parkland zone. Qu'Appelle Coulee is located 15 km north of Wolseley. The other ecological reserve, Assiniboine Slopes, is located east of Yorkton. The Qu'Appelle Coulee designation is the first step of a major provincial ecological plan to conserve Saskatchewan's biological diversity.

NorSask 20-Year Forest Management Plan

The department initiated the first environmental impact assessment review of forest management through the NorSask 20-Year Forest Management Plan. The NorSask plan covers significant forest reserves of more than three million hectares (7.4 million acres) in the Meadow Lake region. Proponents must submit a 20-year Forest Management Plan for managing the timber resource to Saskatchewan Parks and Renewable Resources. The department then conducts an environmental impact assessment on the plans to identify measures to prevent, eliminate or mitigate any negative impacts. This process allows the public an opportunity to voice their opinions regarding the environmental impact.

Review Timing

The Environmental Assessment Branch is developing some measures for evaluating performance. For example, one aspect which can be measured is the success achieved in reaching a decision on a project within the prescribed time period of 30-45 days. The success rate for the 1991-92 fiscal year only reached 51 per cent. Some of the reasons leading to the low success rate consisted of incomplete project proposals being received and additional information being requested, delays by proponents in providing additional information, a heavy workload experienced by review agencies resulting in a delay in providing comments to the branch and a heavy workload on project officers within the branch which delayed decision making on individual projects.

Reforming the Process

Environmental assessment in Saskatchewan is changing. During 1991-92, *The Environmental Assessment Act* and associated processes were the subject of considerable review and discussion through a process started the year prior.

The Saskatchewan Environmental Assessment Review Commission (SEARC) was appointed in August 1990 to review *The Environmental Assessment Act* and associated processes. As part of that review, SEARC researched environmental and legal practices across Canada, received briefs and held meetings throughout Saskatchewan to hear public concerns. On February 27, 1991, SEARC presented its report, "Environmental Challenges," to the public and to the government.

Since the release of that report, the department consulted with SEARC, affected government departments and with stakeholders to develop proposals for revision of the Act.

Work on reforming the process will continue into the 1992-93 fiscal year. The department plans to release the White Paper for further public discussions about the many issues associated with environmental impact assessment.

Monitoring, Compliance and Enforcement

The department's most demanding functions are monitoring, compliance and enforcement related to provincial regulations. The branches primarily responsible for these activities are Water Quality, Air and Land Protection, Mines Pollution Control, and Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety.

Monitoring involves a great deal of co-operation with Environment Canada, municipal governments and industry. The department concentrates its compliance efforts on promoting sound environmental management in co-operation with stakeholders and industry.

Fewer resources have been available for enforcement. However, the department this year began a review of the traditional priority of enforcement, and the need for a provincial enforcement policy. A new policy and a higher priority for enforcement are expected to be key future activities.

Air Quality

The department's air quality objective is to prevent air pollution from industrial and other sources.

Legislation

The Ozone Depleting Substances Control Act became effective on January 1, 1991. The legislation enabled the department to introduce regulations designed to phase out chloroflourocarbons (CFCs) and halons. The new regulations will also include mandatory recovery and recycling as well as requirements for labelling, storage and transportation, in addition to training and certification. In March 1992, the Minister endorsed an advance of

Canada's deadlines for the phasing out of ozone depleting substances to 1995 or earlier. The department is currently distributing draft regulations to more than 800 stakeholders in the province for comment. Training and certification procedures and schedules are also currently being developed.

Industrial Surveillance Activities

Selected major industries must monitor emissions and/or ambient air quality near their operations as a condition of their permits to operate. The results of these monitoring efforts are submitted to the Air Quality Section for review. Most monitoring results are well within provincial standards and requirements.

During 1991-92, the department issued 35 new permits and renewed 85 permits.

Urban Air Monitoring

The air monitoring program in Regina and Saskatoon is a federal/provincial cost-shared project, using air quality instrumentation provided by Environment Canada. The department's Air Quality Section provides staff, sampling locations, and supporting equipment and maintenance to ensure valid quality data. In addition, it provides air quality instrumentation and support for monitoring sites around the Consumers' Co-operative Refinery/Upgrader in Regina and near the Saskatchewan Power Corporation's Thermal Generating Station in Coronach. A number of industries were also required to carry out ambient air monitoring as a condition of their permit to operate.

At air monitoring stations across the province, air quality parameters typically measured may include sulphur dioxide, hydrogen sulphide, carbon monoxide, ozone, oxides of nitrogen, particulate matter, and wind direction and speed. Starting in 1991, the air quality in the major cities of Saskatoon and Regina was reported on a daily basis. The "Air Quality Index," televised on the Weather Channel, transforms the air quality levels into a single number and verbal description to describe the general air quality at the two locations twice per day. Air quality can be rated as fair to good at both locations. Provincial air quality data for 1991-92 is available from the department on request.

Future plans in the air monitoring program include compliance monitoring at one location in Lloydminster, site of a new heavy oil upgrader scheduled to be operating in 1992. Monitoring may also be extended to measure levels of ozone and nitrogen oxides in a rural location removed from the normal sources of these pollutants normally associated with urban pollution.

Complaints Investigation

The Air Quality Section investigated 109 complaints during 1991-92. This represents a decrease of approximately 30 per cent from the previous year.

The majority of complaints related to odors, smoke and dust. Most complaints concerned activities of oil refineries, heavy oil upgraders, salt drying plants, asphalt plants, grain elevators, steel foundries and other industrial activities. In a number of cases, changes to operating procedures were sufficient to resolve the complaint. In certain cases, however, detailed evaluations were necessary before operational or equipment changes could be implemented.

Water Quality

The department's objective is to protect and enhance the quality of Saskatchewan's surface and groundwater.

Regulation of Municipal Water and Sewage Works

The department regulates and establishes standards and operating guidelines for all municipal water and sewage works and private and government works having a capacity of 18 or more m³/day. At the end of 1991-92 there were 590 licensed waterworks and 483 licensed sewage works in the province. Also 157 permits and operating orders were renewed along with 68 approval notices for construction of new works.

In May the department published new municipal drinking water quality objectives for all regulated waterworks. The department established a multi-agency committee to develop a strategy to assess alternatives available to communities for upgrading their waterworks to meet the new objectives. The department also completed a monitoring program at approximately 50 communities to provide a comprehensive database on trace contaminant levels in drinking water supplies. The upgrading strategy will be completed in December 1992.

The department continued consultation with Prince Albert and Nipawin to achieve compliance with secondary sewage treatment standards. It expects binding compliance schedules for both communities by the end of 1992-93. The communities of Radisson, Spy Hill and Crystal Springs were brought into compliance with drinking water disinfection requirements during 1991-92. There are 22 municipal drinking water systems still not complying with mandatory disinfection.

Regional environment officers monitored and delivered technical assistance to operators to ensure municipalities comply with regulatory requirements for drinking water and sewage works. In 1991, 910 inspections, 28 investigations and 21 emergency responses were conducted.

Regulation of Industrial Effluent Works

All industrial operations, except mining, require a permit to construct, operate or alter effluent works. Major industrial permits were issued in 1991-92 for the Husky Upgrader at Lloydminster, Saskferco, Poundmaker Ethanol and SPC Shand. An operating permit was issued for the Millar Western Pulp Mill at Meadow Lake. This mill began operation in early 1992 and provides for sophisticated treatment and reuse of water, ensuring no effluent is discharged to the nearby Beaver River.

New federal regulations for the pulp and paper industry were introduced in 1991. The department will negotiate agreements with Environment Canada by December 1992 to give the department the sole administrative authority to regulate the industry in Saskatchewan.

Investigations of soil and groundwater contamination were undertaken of the Saskatoon Chemicals and Consumers' Co-operative Refinery - Newgrade industrial sites. Work will continue in 1992-93 to define the extent of contamination and to evaluate remediation and mitigation requirements.

Regulation of Biocide Use in Surface Water

The department regulates the use of chemicals and biocides in or near surface water for the control of nuisance plants and algae, mosquitoes, blackflies and other pests. In 1991-92, 100 permits were issued; however, the department actively promotes non-chemical control alternatives.

For the first time, blackfly larvae in the Saskatchewan River system was controlled successfully with the biological control agent, Bti. The department will no longer approve the use of organochlorine insecticides such as methoxychlor because of their long-term persistence and toxicity to non-target organisms.

Surface Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment

The department maintained monitoring networks on the North Saskatchewan, South Saskatchewan, and Saskatchewan, Qu'Appelle, Souris and Churchill River basins in 1991-92.

The department manages transboundary water quality in co-operation with other provincial, state and federal jurisdictions. During 1991-92, water quality objectives for protection of downstream uses of several rivers were established through agreements.

These include:

- Draft bilateral agreements with the North West Territories and Alberta for transboundary water in the Mackenzie Basin;
- Canada-United States Souris River Agreement established water quality objectives at the two international border crossings; and

- Prairie Provinces Water Board Master Agreement amended to include water quality objectives at the interprovincial boundaries of 11 eastward flowing rivers.

A water quality investigation on the Assiniboine River near Kamsack was completed in 1991 in co-operation with Manitoba Environment and Environment Canada. The results will be used to determine the impact of the Kamsack treated sewage discharge and other developments on water quality in Shellmouth Reservoir.

In co-operation with cottage groups, the department completed recreational lake water quality assessments on Crystal and Brightsand Lakes. A report on the Round Lake co-operative project was published in 1991. The department will undertake assessments on Jackfish and Murray Lakes during 1992-93.

During the year, the department began developing a water quality model for the North Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan Rivers. The model will be used to evaluate the effects of industrial and municipal effluent discharges on river quality and to assess cumulative effects on water quality in Codette Reservoir. Additional field monitoring will be completed in 1992-93 to provide data required to verify the model. Weyerhaeuser Canada Ltd. and SaskPower will continue complimentary water quality studies in the North Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan rivers during 1992-93 to evaluate the effects of the pulp mill effluent discharge and the Nipawin Hydroelectric Project, respectively.

The department completed and reported on a project to evaluate toxicity tests in 1991-92. Bacteria, invertebrates, algae and fish were assessed on a range of municipal and industrial effluents in the province. The results will be evaluated during 1992-93 to determine if toxicity testing should be applied as a regulatory requirement for effluent discharges.

Groundwater Quality Assessment

A groundwater quality unit was established in the Water Quality Branch in December 1991. It provides expertise on groundwater quality monitoring and assessment, aquifer protection and remediation of groundwater contamination.

A three year co-operative study and investigation program to develop a groundwater protection strategy for the Regina Area Aquifers was completed in 1991-92. Aquifer protection guidelines prepared by the department are now being used by the City of Regina, industry and developers to ensure existing and proposed developments do not contaminate the aquifers. The department will initiate a long-term groundwater quality monitoring program in the Condie Aquifer during 1992-93 to assess trends and evaluate the significance of existing local contamination.

A multi-agency committee was established in 1991 to develop an aquifer management plan for southeast Saskatchewan. The department provides groundwater quality expertise to this committee to evaluate groundwater monitoring requirements and various groundwater use scenarios.

The department, in co-operation with Saskatchewan Health and Saskatchewan Water Corporation, completed an investigation of naturally occurring elevated arsenic concentrations in an aquifer in northeast Saskatchewan. Several domestic and municipal wells were monitored and the results compared with provincial drinking water quality objectives.

Land Protection

The department's objective is to preserve and enhance the environment by managing land use activities and promoting rehabilitation of polluted lands.

Municipal Waste

There are 953 landfills in the province of which 125 have been issued permits to operate under the Municipal Refuse Management regulations. The department's goal is to issue operating permits to existing landfills that meet site and operating criteria at the earliest possible date. Before a permit is issued, extensive technical work and inspections are required. This process is time consuming and the department is working through the inventory of sites as quickly as staff resources allow.

The Municipal Waste Unit inspected approximately 30 per cent of the province's landfills during the year to ensure compliance with regulations. The unit handles complaints in seven to 10 days from ratepayers and the general public regarding waste disposal and sewage haulers. The unit's goal is to reduce the turn-around time to within three to four days.

In 1990-91, the department held 18 meetings across the province to discuss solid waste disposal. The meetings were tailored to individual area problems and possible solutions. These meetings were a first step in developing a provincial solid waste management strategy. Data collected at the meetings is being used as information for the strategy. The department is developing a new program based on the 1990-91 consultation to be launched in 1992-93.

The Municipal Solid Waste Management Program was announced by the Minister in January 1992. This program is being developed to encourage regional solid waste management

with the launching of two pilot regional projects which will be used as models for future regionalization in the province. There is a five-year timetable for the pilot projects which will involve closure of inadequately sited and operated landfills and changes in conventional waste collection systems in each region. The program is intended to form part of the Solid Waste Management Strategy.

The department is currently establishing an inventory system to access relevant information from all areas of municipal waste monitoring, compliance and enforcement. The system will allow up-to-date information for our client base and provide better service.

Hazardous Substances Storage and Safety

The Chemical Management Section expanded its scope of responsibility during the year mainly because of a 27 per cent increase in registered or approved storage facilities.

Amendments to *The Hazardous Substances Regulations* were completed for Cabinet approval at the end March 1991. The amended regulations are considered essential to the section's goal of completing the registration process and ensuring safe chemical storage within the province. Under the Hazardous Substances Storage Facility Management Program, section staff inspected more than 750 storage facilities in 250 communities during the year. Staff also reviewed more than 200 proposals for new construction approval, upgrading existing facilities and site decommissioning.

The Chemical Safety Unit administered and enforced the regulations for approximately 1,530 chemical storage facilities. See Table 1 for registered storage facilities statistics.

Administrative activities during the year included continued facility registration coupled with compliance inspections at approximately 30 per cent of the known storage sites. The unit's activities next year will focus on storage site compliance audits to assist owners to meet the 1994 compliance deadline as well as the department's goal of registering and inspecting all storage facilities.

Table 1
Hazardous Substances Regulations -
Registered Storage Facilities by
Industrial Sector

Agricultural Industry	958
Bulk Plants	394
Cardlocks	42
Chemical Industry	22
Distributing	6
Manufacturing Industry	76
Mining Industry	31
Service Stations	1454
Transportation	83
Warehousing	9
Others	867
Total	3,942

Dangerous Goods **Transportation Regulations**

One of the main goals of these regulations is to ensure that waste dangerous goods are transported safely from their point of generation to an environmentally appropriate recycling or disposal operation.

In 1990, there were 800 registered generators. By March 30, 1992 this number had increased to 3,300. It is estimated, however, that this number does not represent even half of the generators in the province. In addition, the department has registered 149 carriers and 104 receivers of waste dangerous goods to date.

In 1991, the department created a computer database system to manage the registrant and manifest information. On average the department received 13 manifests per day, equating to approximately 3,400 waste shipments in total. This number appears to be growing at an annual rate of 30 per cent. At March 31, 1992, there was a nine-month backlog of computer data entries.

During the past year, the department inspected 34 sites regarding transportation related issues. Three tickets for violations under *The Dangerous Goods Transportation Act* were issued.

Industrial Waste Management

The aim of the department's industrial waste management program is to ensure that industrial wastes are managed in environmentally acceptable ways and that any environmental impacts on others or the environment resulting from the industrial activities are minimized.

The department issued 16 permits pursuant to *The Environmental Management and Protection Act* for solid industrial waste management operations ranging from waste chemical (solvent, battery and pesticide) collection facilities, to industrial waste treatment operations, such as landfarming facilities.

The department handled approximately 200 inquiries per month regarding the management of wastes from both small generators and large industrial sites. In addition, it reviewed approximately 10 medium- to large-scale waste management project proposals per month, providing guidance and technical assistance with respect to the steps industry must take to meet the established regulatory standards.

The department surveyed 160 of Saskatchewan's estimated 300 salvage yard operations in 1991 to provide information regarding such issues as the proper storage of waste batteries and the safety requirements found in *The Dangerous Goods Transportation Regulations*. The operations were also given a copy of the department's *"Environmental Guidelines for Salvage Shops and Salvage Yards."*

The department surveyed 13 wood treating operations and although the conditions found suggested the potential for relatively significant contamination, existing manpower would not permit follow-up actions for this sector.

Many large industries have developed their own environmental programs. In these cases the department is able to offer guidance with respect to emerging standards and regulatory requirements to enable the companies or their representative organizations to strengthen these programs. With existing resource levels, the department has not, however, been able to offer much assistance to the small and medium size businesses. This is a much more intensive process requiring both a major education commitment and technical assistance in areas including their choice of input chemicals, waste minimization techniques, on-site treatment options and storage requirements and off-site disposal requirements. Our inability to meet the needs of this segment of industry has meant

that many businesses, even if they have expressed concerns about their practices, have reverted to the environmental practices of the 1950's.

The major constraint met in trying to provide industry with guidance on proper waste management techniques is the general lack of waste management facilities in Saskatchewan and the relatively poor access to out-of-province technologies. The ability of the department to meet the waste management needs of its industrial clients and to protect the public and the environment against occurrences of "mid-night" dumping of dangerous wastes depends heavily on the success of the Waste Dangerous Goods Management Plan.

PCB Management

The department's PCB waste management program has two main objectives: 1) to ensure that PCB wastes are managed in an environmentally secure manner; and 2) to consolidate all non-treatable PCB waste at the provincial PCB storage facility.

Since April 11, 1989, the department has regulated PCB storage sites, operated by SaskPower, several other Crown corporations, oil and gas sector companies, town and city administrations, school boards and universities, hospitals, several mining companies and various retail, processing and manufacturing businesses, in accordance with *The PCB Waste Storage Regulations*.

Although PCB's cannot be used in new processes or equipment, the continued use of existing PCB equipment in Canada has not been banned. New storage sites are created and old sites reopened as in-service PCB equipment is decommissioned due to either failure or voluntary phase-out

programs. Sites are closed as equipment is decontaminated or consolidated at the Provincial Storage Facility, which is operated by SaskPower at Boundary Dam.

There are approximately 11,300 litres of waste askarel (PCB) fluid in storage. Of this, 83 per cent is now stored at the provincial storage facility, up from 38 per cent in April 1991. In addition, approximately 940,000 litres of mineral oil contaminated with low levels of PCBs were decontaminated by waste management companies operating in Saskatchewan under the approval of the department.

The regulations require that the operators of PCB waste storage sites submit revised inventories every January and July 1. There was an 85 per cent compliance rate for the January 1, 1992 reporting date. The department provides these inventories to Environment Canada to update the National PCB Inventory, which is maintained for reference on the provincial computer system.

The department inspected 15 PCB waste storage sites during the year.

Agricultural Chemical Collection Program (ACCP)

The ACCP was well received during the second year of operation. During 1991, the department held 46 collection events serving 98 rural municipalities. Approximately 30 tons of unusable farm chemicals were collected. The waste products collected represented a diverse range of agricultural chemicals in a wide variety of packages. Costs of the program for 1991-92 totalled \$330,077 which includes the cost of three person years employment.

As a result of a fire in November at the Grand Coulee transfer facility used for the repackaging and interim storage of the chemicals collected through the ACCP, the Minister of Environment and Public Safety launched an inquiry. An independent consultant was contracted to evaluate the program. A final report is expected in April 1992. Department staff are meeting with stakeholders and other government agencies to develop a unified, comprehensive set of regulations tightening construction standards, operating procedures and storage of hazardous substances and waste in Saskatchewan. Collection activities for the remaining 103 rural municipalities planned for the 1992-93 year of the program will be postponed. The development of a waste management strategy is the goal for the 1992-93 year and is necessary before the ACCP can proceed.

The unit has been responsible for the site clean-up and related monitoring activities at the Grand Coulee fire site. Clean-up of the site is virtually complete, with disposal of one load of waste soil and monitoring of the soil surrounding the site being planned for the spring and summer of 1992.

Chemical Information Service

The department provides chemical related information services to the public, industry and other government agencies. During 1991-92, the department handled approximately 625 inquiries regarding the toxicity, handling and storage of a wide variety of chemical substances. The department provides the most accurate and recent information by updating its reference library on an ongoing basis.

Fuel and Industrial Chemical Storage

The Fuels and Industrial Chemicals Unit is responsible for approximately 2,000 storage facilities involved in the handling, storage and resale of fuel products. During 1991-92, the unit focused on completing the registration of underground petroleum storage tanks.

A new initiative intended to increase compliance with the registration process was to clearly identify those tanks that are registered with the department. Metal tags with the facility's registration number and tank number are being permanently attached to the fill pipe of all registered storage tanks.

Four students hired under the Environmental Youth Corps Program conducted inspections in more than 200 communities over the summer. More than 400 registered facilities were inspected with an additional 300 unregistered facilities and 150 out-of-service operations found. In 1991-92, the department has made inspections in over 600 communities.

Additional work in the area of registration included an extensive field presence in the north to advise remote outfitters of the requirements of the regulations.

The classification of all registered underground tank storage sites in the province was a major task the department completed during the past year. Site classification consists of an assessment of a site for its sensitivity for impact on the environment and on human health and safety. It requires a comprehensive review of local environmental conditions and other factors.

Program staff continued to review applications for new construction, upgrading of existing sites, as well as decommissioning of a number of existing storage facilities around the province. Site inspections for the previously mentioned activities were conducted on a regular basis.

Installer Certification Program

The department has long recognized that proper installation is a key element in a successful storage tank management program. With the help of Warden Environmental Systems of North Battleford, who co-produced and assisted with the presentation of the course, more than 200 contractors took the Installers Certification Training Program.

The three-day training course was held twice during 1991-92. It helped make participants aware of the requirements for compliance with the regulations.

Mining

The department's objective is to protect the environment at mining and milling operations and to protect the public from naturally occurring radiation hazards. The department's objective is also to upgrade regulations and mining practices, and to develop greater consultation and involvement by industry.

Regulations

The department replaced the old Mineral Industry Pollution Prevention Regulations 1982 with the new Mineral Industry Environmental Protection Regulations July 31, 1991 to ensure sound environmental planning through all stages of development.

The new licensing requirements provide enhanced control during all phases of mining operations, including exploration, construction, operation, temporary shutdown and final closure. The new regulations also provide full environmental control over the uranium industry which was not covered under the

previous regulations. The new regulations were developed in consultation with the mining industry and general public.

The department will be modifying the regulations to authorize a financial security mechanism (ie: bonding) to ensure industry funding is available to guarantee environmentally sound decommissioning at the time of mine closure.

Environmental Management for Mining Conference

The department initiated the first annual Environmental Management for Mining Conference jointly sponsored with the Saskatchewan Mining Association. The conference, held in November 1991 in Saskatoon, attracted 225 participants from the industry, government, education consultants, media and the public. They discussed environmental challenges facing Saskatchewan's mining industry and future environmental management in the mining industry.

The department will take a lead role in implementing the second annual Environmental Management for Mining Conference.

Uranium and Gold Mines

Compliance water sampling at mine sites resulted in more than 5,000 separate water quality analyses being performed from 25 water quality monitoring locations. Mining companies must monitor all aspects of the environment on a regular basis and submit the data to the department. This monitoring data resulted in more than 40,000 water quality analyses being performed from approximately 280 different surface and groundwater sample locations.

Additional monitoring requirements include fish, sediments, macrophytes, air quality and other biological media. The public has access to all licenses issued and the monitoring data.

In future the department will develop and co-ordinate a Steering Committee with the uranium industry to evaluate the environmental implications of waste rock dumps in northern Saskatchewan. The department is planning to initiate an Ecological Engineering Steering Committee, made up of government and industry, to co-ordinate research into the application of this environmental protection concept at northern Saskatchewan mine sites.

Abandoned Mines Remedial Action Program

During the summer of 1991, the department completed a comprehensive field program. The status of all abandoned mines in the province was compiled through consultation with local councils, landowners, local residents and field investigations. Remedial work eliminated hazardous situations at 22 sites using 14 different contractors.

Potash and Coal Mines

All mines having pollutant control facilities must obtain ministerial approval to operate. This includes 10 potash and five coal mines, a base metal mine, a salt mine, a peat producer and six potassium sulphate developments.

The department issued 18 Ministerial approvals to operate, and four approvals to construct to mining operations during the year. Ten compliance samples resulted in 110 separate analyses.

During the year, the department continued to emphasize searching for and developing procedures to remove growing quantities of salt tailings from the surface at existing potash mine sites. The potash industry worked on several studies to evaluate options such as disposal into mined out workings, deep well injection, impermeable capping of tailings, and others. The department is working in co-operation with the potash industry to resolve this environmental priority, and at year-end was working with the industry to develop a "grassroots" study on methods to reduce the volume of tailings brought to or stored on surface.

The department plans to work with the Saskatchewan Potash Producers Association to ensure the development of an industry-wide mine waste management strategy.

The department is currently finalizing reclamation guidelines and procedures for releasing mining companies from further obligations for mined land which has been properly reclaimed.

Two sodium sulphate mines closed down. However, because of insolvency the mines have not yet been decommissioned and reclaimed. The receiver has been advised of department requirements if the mines do not reopen, but reopening remains a possibility. Five abandoned clay mines were reclaimed and released from further requirements of the Mineral Industry Environmental Protection Regulations. One potassium sulphate mine went into production from previous pilot plant status.

Public Safety

The objectives of the department's public safety programs are to preserve the quality of life within the as-built environment through minimizing risk and potential hazards inherent in the use of boilers and pressure vessels, elevating devices, amusement rides and gas and electrical installations.

Verification and Registration of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Designs

The objective of the department's design verification and registration program is to ensure that boilers and pressure vessels destined from provincial, national and international sources for use in Saskatchewan are designed to the adopted safety codes.

During 1991-92, this program experienced intense activity with a total of 1,437 design packages being submitted from manufacturers. Included in this total were 216 individual welding procedures. Of these design packages 1,103 were accepted for registration and 334 rejected.

Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspection Program

During 1991-92, inspectors made a total of 5,255 inspections of boilers and pressure vessels to ensure that installed safety devices provide continued safe operation and structural integrity. They included 214 boilers, 370 pressure vessels and eight refrigeration plants newly installed in the province. In addition, staff inspected 356 provincial manufacturers' facilities during equipment manufacturing.

The number of inspections performed on boilers, pressure vessels and refrigeration plants in 1991-92 was 4,899 significantly reduced from 10,230 in 1990-91. This reflects the loss of four inspectors resulting from retirements and resignation. Active recruitment measures were initiated to fill the vacant positions and it is anticipated that full staffing levels will be attained early in 1992-93.

As a result of department inspections, 1,206 improvement orders and recommendations regarding potentially hazardous conditions were issued and remedial action taken.

During 1991-92, there were no major accidents involving personal injury or fatality resulting from equipment failure.

In 1991-92 inspectors were heavily involved in the construction phases of four major industrial projects: Shand Power Generating Station, Husky Bi-Provincial Upgrader, Saskferco Fertilizer Plant and Millar Western Pulp Mill.

Heavy inspection involved with the Husky Bi-Provincial Upgrader and Millar Western Pulp Mill projects necessitated the opening of a branch office in Lloydminster and the full-time assignment of an inspector to service the two projects.

Examination and Certification Programs

The objectives of the Firemen and Power Engineers Certification Program is to examine and certify boiler operating personnel. Saskatchewan subscribes to and administers standardized power engineers examinations at the fourth, third, second and first class levels. The standardized program promotes interprovincial recognition and mobility of the certificate holders.

During 1991-92, quarterly examination sessions were conducted in Regina and Saskatoon. A total of 1,672 individual examination papers were administered, 853 new certificates issued and 1,261 five-year registrations issued.

Welder Certification

The objective of the welder certification program is to periodically verify welders' competence to continue to produce welds consistent with the safety standards necessary to maintain a safe operating environment. Welders are required to test at intervals of 24 months for each welding process and designated materials they actively weld. During 1991-92, a total of 1,147 individual weld tests were administered by inspectors throughout the province.

Elevator and Amusement Ride Safety Programs

During the year, 2,071 elevating devices, including passenger elevators, freight elevators, escalators and ski lifts and 194 amusement rides were licensed and in active operation throughout the province. The distribution of elevating devices by type licensed in 1991-92 is illustrated in Table 2.

Table 2
Licences issued under *The Passenger and Freight Elevator Act*

Type of Licence	1991-92	1990-91
Passenger elevator	1,338	1,313
Freight elevator	187	191
Hand-power freight	12	13
Hydraulic freight	69	71
Electric dumbwaiter	147	153
Handicapped lift	201	197
Manlift	54	55
Escalator	23*	23*
Chairlift	2	1
T-bar	10	12
Ropetow	28	30
Subtotal	2,071	2,059
Elevator Contractors		
Class "A"	9	11
Class "B"	16	15
Class "C"	3	2
Subtotal	28	28
TOTAL	2,099	2,087

*Licences issued covered 53 escalators.

Verification and Registration of Elevator and Amusement Ride Design

The department's design verification and registration program ensures that elevating devices and amusement rides to be installed and operated in the province meet the minimum established standards of safety.

During 1991-92, 53 design packages submitted by equipment manufacturers were reviewed and registered for installation. Of particular interest was a quadruple chair ski-lift

installed at the Table Mountain ski facility near North Battleford, which is the first of its kind in the province.

Elevator and Amusement Ride Inspection Programs

During the year, the department conducted 2,036 inspections on elevating devices of all types throughout the province. Also 506 correction orders were issued with regard to equipment deficiencies. Remedial corrective action was completed on 441 of these correction orders by year end, with the balance to be completed according to a given time frame in 1992-93.

Because amusement rides operate predominantly on a travelling circuit, each amusement ride is inspected at the location of its first set up in the province to ensure that equipment safety and operational standards are met. During 1991-92, a total of 194 amusement rides were inspected at locations throughout the province, and licences issued.

The department investigated four accidents involving elevating devices during 1991-92. One person sustained injury from a mechanical malfunction of a passenger elevator. Installed safety devices engaged effectively in response to the equipment malfunction.

Gas and Electrical Licensing Programs

Licensing of gas and electrical installers provide a high degree of public protection from potential hazards associated with the use of gas and electrical facilities. In addition, wholesale suppliers of gas and electrical equipment and distributors of propane gas are subject to licensing.

In 1991-92, a total of 5,264 licenses under *The Electrical Licensing Act* and 3,087 licenses under *The Gas Licensing Act* were in effect.

During 1991-92, the department successfully prosecuted one unlicensed company performing electrical installation in violation of *The Electrical Licensing Act*. In addition, 10 recourse to bond actions were initiated to correct hazardous defects by a licensed contractor where the original installing contractor defaulted on his responsibility.

Legislation

There is increasing demand for department services in the safety arena. However, significant technological change, industrial expansion and fiscal restraints have the power to erode department effectiveness in responding to these demands. The department is planning to develop, in consultation with stakeholders, proposals for a clear, comprehensive legislative framework that recognizes and defines participation of government and nongovernment parties in maintaining acceptable levels of safety in this decade.

Emergency Response

The mandate of the department's Spill Response Unit is contained in *The Environmental Management and Protection Act* (EMP Act) and the Environmental Spill Control Regulations. The EMP Act gives the authority to investigate discharge of pollutants, including its source and extent, effect on the environment and any advisable remediation. Under the Environmental Spill Control Regulations, spills must be reported to the department, and pollutants must be disposed of properly.

During the year, the Spill Report Centre received approximately 1,300 calls. Of these calls, 243 were to report spills which are classified under the Environmental Spill Control Regulations.

In addition, the spill response team dealt with numerous complaints and requests for information regarding chemical handling and disposal, transportation of dangerous goods, environmental manifests, indoor air quality and environmental property searches.

Table 3
Petroleum Related Spills
(April 1, 1991 - March 31, 1992)

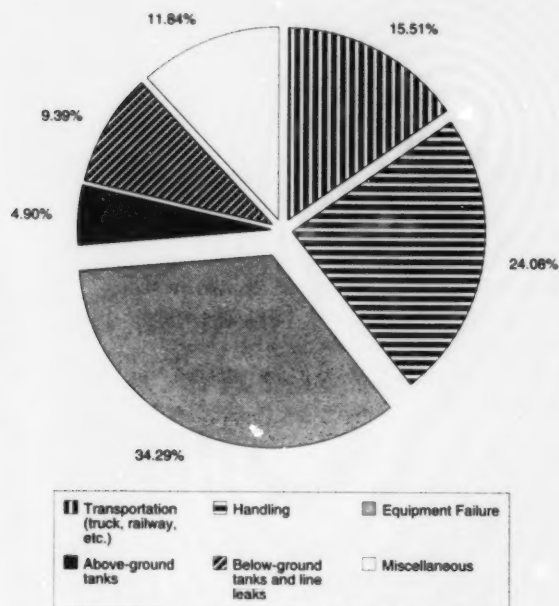
	Per cent
General	31
Reported by Sask. Energy & Mines	3
Related to:	
Truck Transportation	14
Rail Transportation	5
Service Stations	17
Bulk Plants	16
Refineries	10
Transformers	3
Storm Sewers	1

Table 4
Non-Petroleum Related Spills
(April 1, 1991 - March 31, 1992)

	Per cent
PCB Spills	35
Waste Products	33
Misc. Inorganic Substances	11
Misc. Organic Substances	7
Biocides	6
Acids and Bases	6
Radioactive Materials	2

The following pie chart illustrates the percentage of causes for spills.

Figure 1
Spill Statistics by Cause



Future goals in the Spill Response Centre are:

- to develop the capability to better monitor and assess the effects of spills;
- to gain a more thorough understanding of client groups and their industries;
- to increase field presence through greater client consultation and more frequent inspection and follow-up of reported spills;
- to establish a regular program of audits and inspections, including regular return visits to sites; and
- to develop the capability to provide advice and guidance on remedial work.

Information and Education

The department expanded information and education services in 1991-92 in response to a dominant shift in public opinion focused on the desire for a healthier, safer environment. With that opinion shift came greater demand from schools and the general public for information and education materials. Materials were also produced to support the department's extensive and growing public involvement programs.

Public Programs

The Public Affairs Branch provides information and education services to facilitate the department's environmental mandate and to reinforce partnerships, co-operation, openness and public involvement. The branch delivers these services to institutions, business and individuals to empower them to take responsibility and action to protect the environment.

The Environmental Resource Network

To better handle the large and growing demand for environmental information in the most efficient way possible, the department established the Environmental Resource Network -- an environmental service unique in Canada. The Network was developed in co-operation and consultation with non-government organizations, government agencies and other institutions. It will be launched in April 1992.

The Network will provide more than 100 local literature distribution centres and 100 smaller catalogue reference centres in libraries, SARCAN Recycling depots, and municipal, urban park, environment group and government offices in 70 communities throughout the province. A toll-free information phone line, funded in part by Environment Canada, supports the Network. The Network includes a Catalogue of Resources, which has comprehensive listings of environmental information essential to Saskatchewan. The Network has more than 40 literature titles covering a wide variety of environmental topics. Twenty publications were either donated or provided on a cost-shared basis by other agencies.

The department operates the Network with an advisory board representing the 40 participating organizations. Each site in the Network is maintained on a volunteer basis by the member organization.

The department is examining future expansion of the Network to include the corporate sector, shopping malls, schools and financial institutions. This may involve business participants through partnership arrangements to recover costs of display units and literature reprints. In addition, the department will study opportunities for computer access and audio-visual materials.

To help establish and operate the Network, \$68,755 was provided from the Environmental Protection Fund. The Network employs one full-time person and one part-time person, and relies on support from departmental staff as required.

Publications

The department's publications objectives are to produce or acquire titles on key environmental issues and to fill gaps in information available to schools and the public.

The Environmental Resource Network is the key distribution system for department publications, including the *Helping the Environment* series of six brochures that was reprinted due to public demand this year. The department also published a second edition of the popular booklet, *Choose to Conserve: the Consumer and the Environment*. *Environment & Public Safety TODAY*, the department's monthly newsletter, is mailed to more than 5,000 stakeholders in the province.

Other publications where production was coordinated by Public Affairs during the year included the department's first *State of the Environment Report*, the 1990-91 *Annual Report*, *The Clean Air Strategy Technical Report* and supporting brochure, *The Great Sand Hills Land Use Strategy*, and the Saskatchewan Round Table on Environment and Economy's *Draft Conservation Strategy for Sustainable Development in Saskatchewan*.

In response to demand from French immersion schools, communities and media, the department has had several of its publications translated into French by provincial government translation services. It has done so by accessing federal funds under a partnership arrangement. In addition, the department has acquired without charge a number of federal environmental publications written in French.

Public Speakers

The department extends information and education to the general public, institutions, business and special interest groups by supplying speakers. Public Affairs Branch coordinates speaking engagements for department staff or links the group with other agencies, such as institutions, corporations or environmental groups, that have speakers.

Topics can range from the highly technical aspects of municipal water quality standards, community recycling programs, changing behaviors to taking personal action for a healthy environment.

The branch is currently developing a speakers bureau consisting of department personnel and other experts outside government. In addition to English speakers, the bureau will include existing staff who can address French schools and communities. Once established, the branch will publicize the bureau to ensure public access.

Advertising

Except where public involvement is essential in an environmental assessment review or in resolving an important issue, the department curtails promotional advertising and concentrates on promoting environmental awareness through face-to-face interaction, such as the speakers bureau. The department primarily uses communications means other than advertising. Advertisements are usually used only to announce public meetings or new publications available to the public.

Media Relations

The news media are a critical, influential and perhaps most effective means by which the public receives environmental information. Public Affairs Branch therefore makes it a priority to monitor environmental information carried by the media and to develop effective working relationships with the media.

The objective is to encourage more media coverage of environmental issues, especially coverage that provides in-depth analyses of current issues and choices.

Department staff received approximately 1,000 calls from the media in 1991-92, and they provided reporters with facts, documents and referrals as needed. Department staff provided technical interviews on a regular basis. As well, Public Affairs Branch co-ordinated a number of technical media briefings on complex issues of the day.

School Programs

Saskatchewan young people play an important role in environmental education. They not only learn about the environment, but become educators themselves by taking environmental messages and attitudes home to their parents. For instance, the success of recycling programs can be attributed, in large part, to children learning about recycling at school and then bringing this activity and attitude into the home.

These same young people are our future decision makers and as such need a deep understanding of our environment in order to protect it in the future. It is essential that we provide young people with accurate information about the environment. Teachers, too, need to be well informed and equipped to provide models for protecting the environment.

The department's main objective in its school program is to ensure that students and teachers have access to the environmental information with a Saskatchewan focus they need. This will enable them to develop the skills, values, attitudes and actions that will help them become citizens who will protect and enhance our environment.

Our methods include: providing a central resource for information; linking people who deliver environmental education; co-ordinating activity among education providers and recipients; monitoring progress and identifying needs at the provincewide level; encouraging new activity and new approaches to environmental education; and promoting environmental education.

The department's is currently developing an education plan by developing existing and new resources. The plan will involve:

- developing more resource people within the department;
- co-operating with the growing number of people and organizations involved in environmental education in Saskatchewan;
- improving the department's accessibility and education services to groups such as rural communities and Northern Saskatchewan, disadvantaged peoples and aboriginal populations.

Some of this year's accomplishments are:

The Saskatchewan Round Table on Environment and Economy's Education Advisory Committee produced the report, *An Education Strategy for Sustainable Development in Saskatchewan*. The department will incorporate as many recommendations as possible into its education plan.

The Round Table established a Youth Committee. As a result of Youth Committee recommendations the department facilitated the Saskatchewan Round Table on Environment and Economy Youth Forum. More than 90 youth from across Saskatchewan met in Regina in February to produce comments on the Round Table's *Draft Conservation Strategy for Sustainable Development in Saskatchewan*.

The department hosted a meeting with Saskatchewan's environmental youth groups in January. This initial meeting is part of a plan to involve youth in decisions that will affect their future. In addition, the meeting provided an opportunity for youth to explore the need for a provincial environment youth network.

Department staff attended 40 workshops and presentations for teachers and students to give them broader more accurate information on environmental issues in Saskatchewan.

The department's education co-ordinator consulted with school board administrations about developing environmental policy for their jurisdictions. This will result in a publication to be released in the fall of 1992 outlining steps for school boards to develop local environmental policies and regulations.

The education co-ordinator consulted with Saskatchewan Education on ways to include environmental education into the curriculum. This will result in increased use of department information and education materials throughout Saskatchewan schools.

The department participated in the Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment - Education Specialists working group during the year. The group is developing mechanisms for producing and sharing environmental education materials, ideas and programs among provinces and territories.

The department facilitated and supported programs such as the Learners in Action Program, a program to promote "Green Schools", from the Society Environment and Energy Development Studies (SEEDS) Foundation and the Canadian Youth Challenge. The programs assist high school students to develop projects that combine environment and economy.

In co-operation with Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation the department developed a display called "New Ideas and Better Products for a Healthy Environment." The department took the display to 25 events in 1991-92.

Clean Cat School Recycling Program

In May 1991, the department launched an innovative program to educate and inform students about recycling and to launch long-term recycling projects in Saskatchewan schools. In 1991-92, the department provided permanent recycling centres to 100 schools around the province as part of the first phase of the program. The wall-mounted recycling centres enable schools to collect various materials, depending on what recycling opportunities exist in each community. With the exception of high schools, the Clean Cat mascot visited each school with a music-and-magic show about recycling.

The program involves co-operation from the GLAD Corporation which manufactures the recycling centres, SARCAN whose depots collect most of the recycled materials collected, and Saskatchewan Education which provided advice on the program's development.

Environment Youth Corps Program

The Environment Youth Corps program provides employment opportunities to students enrolled in full-time studies at post-secondary educational institutions. Projects for the Environment Youth Corps are aimed at environmental protection and enhancement activities, and are either oriented towards field work or specific environmental enhancement projects.

During 1991-92, about 70 students were employed with government agencies, Crowns and environmental interest groups. They worked throughout the province on projects ranging from endangered species habitat restoration, to water quality monitoring, to hazardous waste storage site inspections.

Funding of \$483,800 in 1991-92 was provided from the Environmental Protection Fund.

The Environment Youth Corps program will be repeated in the summer of 1992.

Technical Programs

A significant program of technical information and education related to water quality is provided by Water Quality Branch.

Provincial Water Quality Database

The department manages a computerized water quality database system (ESQUADAT) for the province. The system provides for storage, analysis and ongoing updates of data including: drinking water quality, surface and groundwater quality, industrial and municipal

effluent quality and biological quality. Data management services are provided to department branches, other government agencies, industrial and municipal clients, and the public.

During 1991-92, the department completed the design and implementation of a new data management system to replace the outdated mainframe system. The new system was funded with \$350,000 from the Environmental Protection Fund. It is located on an in-house mini-computer and provides on-line access for all department staff. Procedures and policies for allowing external access to the system will be developed during 1992-93.

Operator Training and Certification

The department administers an education and training program for operation of municipal waterworks and sewage works in Saskatchewan. During 1991-92, the department presented nine training workshops in various communities and co-sponsored two additional workshops with the Saskatchewan Water and Waste Association (SWWA). Total workshop attendance was 230.

The department established an Operator Training Committee with representatives from Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIASST), SWWA and the Operator Certification Board to provide advice and recommendations on future training requirements and delivery mechanisms for Saskatchewan operators.

The department administers a voluntary operator certification program with the assistance of an independent Operator Certification Board. During 1991-92, the Board approved 27 new qualification certificates.

A Certification Advisory Committee was established in 1991-92 with representatives from Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association, SIAST, SWWA, Saskatchewan Water Corporation and the Operator Certification Board. The Committee will assess effectiveness of the current voluntary certification program, evaluate alternatives and make recommendations on the future direction of the program. Mandatory certification is a major alternative being considered. The Committee will conduct an extensive survey of operators and municipal administrators in 1992-93 to obtain input on certification alternatives.

Public and Stakeholder Involvement

Public involvement is an integral step in the department's policy and program development process. Acting upon principles of openness, trust and credibility, the department actively encourages stakeholder and public participation in determining future directions for the department and for environmental policies and programs.

At the public level the involvement process strives for consensus-building which begins by ensuring the public has ready access to advance information. This allows an informed audience to respond to the issues of the day.

At the intergovernmental level the department is working co-operatively with both national and regional representatives of other governments to achieve interjurisdictional harmony, share information and avoid duplication of services.

Saskatchewan Round Table on Environment and Economy

The main goal of the Round Table, formed in 1989, was to develop a provincial Conservation Strategy by introducing, explaining and promoting the concept of sustainable development. Sustainable development means developing our economy in ways that protect environmental resources for ourselves and future generations.

Environmental Awards

During Environment Week in June 1991, the Round Table presented 12 awards to businesses, organizations, communities and individuals in recognition of their achievements in improving understanding of the relationship between the environment and economy.

Winners of 1991 Awards for Environmental Excellence were:

- Wagner Elementary School, Nipawin (education)
- City of Regina (community)
- Tonya Lambert, Kelvington (individual)
- Ramada Renaissance Hotel, Regina (business)
- Megamunch Club, Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History Associates (non-government organization)

Winners of Awards for Environment-Economy Integration were:

- D & D Recycling, Moose Jaw
- Cosmopolitan Industries, Saskatoon
- Savant Manufacturing, Battleford
- City of Moose Jaw
- Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres
- Saskatchewan Bee Keepers Association
- Steep Hill Food Co-operative, Saskatoon

Draft Conservation Strategy

In September 1991 the Round Table published for public review and consultation the *Draft Conservation Strategy for Sustainable Development in Saskatchewan*, based primarily on 11 sectoral advisory group reports. The strategy provides a blueprint to the government and the people of Saskatchewan for an environmentally, economically and socially sustainable future. About 6,000 copies were distributed initially, with more than 3,000 copies distributed subsequently in response to requests.

In January 1992, the Round Table held eight public meetings across the province to stimulate discussion on the *Draft Conservation Strategy*. Nearly 500 people attended the meetings. In February 1992, 90 high school and university students attended a youth forum to discuss the strategy. Two dozen youth delegates then attended a two-day Stakeholder Conference of more than 150 representatives from key industries, business, interest groups, aboriginal organizations and individuals.

The conference was the last step in the public consultation process before writing began on the final report. The Round Table will present the final *Conservation Strategy for Sustainable Development in Saskatchewan* to the Premier in June 1992, during Environment Week.

After the final Conservation Strategy is published, it is proposed that a new and re-mandated Round Table monitor implementation and provide advice to the government on sustainability issues.

Environmental Partnerships

The Environmental Partnerships Branch was formed in January 1991 to develop detailed strategic plans focusing on building and strengthening environmental partnerships.

The branch's Environmental Business Development Unit guides, plans and co-ordinates business activities and industrial research which will aid in developing new technologies and market-based solutions to help protect the environment of Saskatchewan.

The Corporate Environmental Management Unit informs, guides and inspires private and Crown corporations and other public and private institutions to undertake effective voluntary and self-regulatory approaches toward improved stewardship of Saskatchewan's environment.

The Community Environmental Services Unit assists and co-ordinates Saskatchewan communities in developing community environmental strategies and to provide project management advice and development services to environmental community groups across the province.

Environmental Business Development

During the year the department promoted environmental business development by providing environmental business project co-ordinating services to more than 30 companies to help them access regulatory, procurement or financial assistance across all levels of government.

The department developed detailed program guidelines and worked in co-operation with the Department of Economic Diversification and Trade (EDT) to deliver the new Environmental Technology Development Program. The program funds demonstration projects of innovative technology which will enhance environmental protection. This program will have an annual budget of \$300,000 a year under the Environmental Protection Fund. Several funding applications are now being reviewed as the revamped program was only recently announced.

The department established an inter-departmental negotiation team to pursue a greater share of federal spending in Saskatchewan under the Federal Green Plan.

An inter-departmental Task Force was established to develop a provincial strategy for ethanol development and industrial use of grains.

The department worked with the Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation to develop a comprehensive strategy for environmental purchasing by the provincial government.

The department became involved in designing economic incentives for environmental business development and strategies to promote recycling industries in Saskatchewan.

The department acted as a strong advocate to promote an Environmental Industries Association in Saskatchewan and worked with EDT on a current study of environmental industries potential in all of Western Canada.

The department worked with the Community Bonds Office of EDT on tentative design of Green Bonds regulations to help finance environmental business projects.

Corporate Environmental Management

In 1991-92 the department established more than 100 contacts with corporations and business associations to promote establishment of environmental stewardship programs and environmental codes of practice.

More than a dozen major corporations, such as Canadian Tire, Robin Hood Mills, and Dairy Producers, were assisted in developing site environmental audits and other corporate environmental management programs.

An internal environmental workplace policy was established for the department.

The department completed an active speaker's program with more than 20 presentations to conferences, college classrooms, and corporate boardrooms.

The department established a Crown corporation environmental manager's network to include regular monthly workshops and seminars.

Planning and design of a series of Saskatchewan eco-maps was started.

The department initiated planning for an environmental managers' conference for next year, and began researching and preparing a "how-to" guide on establishing a corporate environmental management program, to be ready for printing in 1992-93.

Planning has begun on establishing an industry task force to examine issues of environmental liability, to be launched later in 1992.

Community Environmental Services

During the year the department established the Community Environmental Management Steering Committee to meet regularly with local government associations in Saskatchewan and co-ordinate inter-departmental responses to the environmental issues and priorities identified by local governments.

The department established an Environmental Issues Co-ordinating Committee with each of the cities of Saskatoon and Regina to develop and co-ordinate improved environmental planning in Saskatchewan's two largest communities.

A partnership project with the Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council, the City of Regina, the Harmony Foundation of Canada, and Environment Canada's Environmental Partners Fund was developed to provide "showpiece" demonstration projects of improved environmental practices in two pilot workplaces. The demonstration workplaces will be announced in May 1992.

The department prepared a database and a Guide to Financing of Community Environmental Projects in Saskatchewan, scheduled for publication before the end of 1992. This database will also be actively maintained by the Community Environmental Services Unit as an ongoing "broker" and promoter of community-based environmental projects across Saskatchewan.

Research began on a process to develop comprehensive Community Environmental Plans and to encourage establishment of one or two pilot model "Sustainable Communities" and at least one training program or major conference on Community Environmental Management within the next year.

Inter-agency Co-ordination

The department is building relationships among various levels of government and key stakeholders to further develop a partnership approach to protecting and enhancing Saskatchewan's environment.

Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment

Saskatchewan is an active participant in the Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment (CCME). The Council's goal is to manage in the most effective way national environmental issues common to all jurisdictions. The Council, comprised of provincial, territorial and federal Ministers of the Environment, meets at least once a year to discuss and make policy decisions on environmental concerns.

The Committee of Deputy Ministers meets throughout the year to ensure that CCME decisions are implemented. In addition, the Strategic Planning Committee and the Environmental Protection Committee focus on environmental policy and operational issues.

Some CCME initiatives that the department is working on include:

- National Action Strategy on Global Warming
- Nitrogen Oxides/Volatile Organic Compounds Management Plan
- Biomedical Waste Guidelines
- National Packaging Protocol
- Assessment Harmonization Task Force
- Canadian Environmental Enforcement Committee
- Environmental Liability Task Force

Western Accord on Environmental Co-operation

The Western Accord on Environmental Co-operation was signed in February 1991 by environment, energy and resource Ministers from British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and the two territories. The accord endorses the principle of regional co-operation on environmental issues. It was officially ratified at the Western Premiers Meeting in May 1991. The accord provides the framework to achieve protection and enhancement of the shared environment.

Saskatchewan representatives head three task groups under the accord:

- Western Task Force on Waste Minimization
- Western Task Force on Underground Storage Tanks
- Western Provincial and Territorial Air Quality Issues Co-ordination Committee

The department is also part of the Environment Canada (Northern and Western Region)/Saskatchewan Environment and Public Safety Joint Committee. It was formed to create better environmental co-operation and harmony regionally.

Interagency Co-ordinating Committees

The department has taken a proactive approach to form environmental partnerships with other departments and agencies.

The key co-ordinating function is performed by the Deputy Ministers Committee on Integrated Environmental Strategy. In addition, co-ordinating committees are active with:

- Agriculture and Food
- Community Services
- Economic Diversification and Trade
- Energy and Mines
- Health
- Parks and Renewable Resources
- Rural Development
- Saskatchewan Water Corporation
- Saskatchewan Research Council
- Environment Canada
- City of Saskatoon
- City of Regina

The department also held meetings with environmental committees of business and labor organizations. Regular dialogue was established with the Saskatchewan Eco-Network.

In addition, the department has developed a partnership process of involving relevant stakeholders in solving environmental problems, such as cleaning up contaminated "orphaned" sites. This process helped resolve the Silverspring issue in Saskatoon that involved a chemical landfill, a subdivision development and an endangered grassland. Cleaning up a number of other sites will involve a similar public involvement process in the years ahead.

Environmental Management

Saskatchewan's environment is one of the cleanest in North America and the department's mandate is to keep it clean. As a result, the department's core focus is management of the environment by government, industry, institutions and individuals. Department activities concentrate on preventing misuse of the environment and reducing pollution in order to maintain a clean and safe environment now and in the future.

Over the past year, the department's efforts have centred on planning and developing long-range strategies for environmental management in the province. For example, the Clean Air Strategy and Great Sand Hills Land Use Strategy developed during the year will be guiding documents for the future sustainability of air and land use in Saskatchewan.

To develop environmental management strategies of this nature, the department is using a partnership approach in which stakeholders become a part of the decision-making process and results are based on consensus.

Waste Management

The department has embarked on the development of a comprehensive strategy for managing solid waste in the province. Its focus will be on minimizing the amount of solid waste that must be landfilled and on disposal methods that are both environmentally and financially sustainable. The draft strategy should be ready for public discussion in 1993.

Saskatchewan Beverage Container Recycling Program

Beverage containers are collected for recycling through a deposit system under *The Litter Control Act*. Physical collection takes place in a provincewide depot system operated by SARCAN Recycling under a government contract.

During the year the containers eligible for collection were aluminium cans, polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastic bottles and non-refillable glass bottles which had been used for the distribution of carbonated soft drinks and alcohol (including beer). In total, 130 million of these containers were distributed and 93 million collected, a 71.5 per cent return rate.

At year end, SARCAN Recycling was operating 62 satellite depots and three processing centres, employing approximately 195 employees. Of these, 178 are disabled individuals. SARCAN also employs 20 part-time disabled employees.

Work was also underway on program improvements intended to increase container return rates, level the competitive playing field among beverage companies improve and SARCAN's financial stability. The department plans to meet these objectives by increasing refundable deposits as an incentive for greater recycle rates, expanding the program to include a larger number of beverages containers, and increasing environmental handling charges to reflect actual collection costs.

Biomedical Waste

The department and Saskatchewan Health have co-ordinated a Biomedical Waste Steering Committee to address the issue of proper biomedical waste disposal options, including incineration. The steering committee co-ordinates a multi-stakeholder working group to develop interim guidelines for treating and disposing biomedical waste and long-term strategies for sound management of these wastes.

Air Quality Section staff represented the department on the steering committee and working group. They recently implemented incinerator stack emission requirements based on current technology to protect the air quality in Saskatchewan.

The department circulated draft interim guidelines for comments to health care institutions, professional associations, municipalities, labor groups and environmental interest groups. Final guidelines are expected to be implemented by the end of 1992.

Waste Dangerous Goods Management Plan

The objective of this project is to develop a comprehensive plan to manage Saskatchewan's waste dangerous goods, such as industrial wastes, waste agricultural chemicals, PCBs, wood preserving chemicals, dry cleaning sludges, solvents, paint waste, waste batteries, oily wastes, institutional wastes and household hazardous wastes. These wastes are often improperly disposed of by being spilled, dumped, sewered, or landfilled because there are very few environmentally acceptable means of disposal available to the people of this province.

The management of waste dangerous goods has implications for almost all sectors of society including retail and service, manufacturing, oil and gas, mining, agriculture, municipal, institutional, crown corporations, government agencies and individuals.

A steering committee consisting of representatives from private business, industry, government and non-government organization's was created in November 1990 to oversee the development of the strategy. This committee met twice during the year.

The department commissioned a consultant in 1990 to prepare a provincial waste dangerous goods inventory and recommend waste minimization and disposal options for Saskatchewan. The strategy will also include the development of regulations to address the handling, treatment and disposal of waste dangerous goods. The strategy and regulations will be reviewed through a public and industry consultation in the spring of 1993.

The department began verification study of the inventory data collected in January and the options study is ongoing.

Contaminated Sites Program

The Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) has developed a program to address the assessment and remediation of "orphaned" high risk contaminated sites in Canada. The federal government cost-shares clean up of these sites on a 50/50 basis. The department's objective is to ensure that these sites are identified and properly remediated.

Through the CCME program the federal government has allocated \$3.8 million to Saskatchewan for the clean up of such high risk sites and an additional \$ 1 million for

technology development and demonstration projects. The province has not, however, completed the bilateral agreement with the federal government required to provide access to these funds. The program was scheduled to run for five years.

In 1990, the department contracted a consultant to develop an inventory of active and "orphaned" contaminated sites in Saskatchewan. Although the study is not yet finished, several of the sites identified were re-evaluated in 1991 using the CCME National Classification System for Contaminated Sites.

The department continues to oversee the ongoing reclamation of several operating industrial sites.

Clean Air Strategy

A Clean Air Strategy process, initiated in 1991, included a workshop held in Saskatoon in February 1992. A consensus among workshop participants was that all stakeholders must share ownership of the clean air strategy in partnership with the government. One result of the workshop was the proposal to establish an Air Quality Task Force to identify issues and priorities, and develop specific strategies to maintain or enhance the quality of Saskatchewan's air.

The task force will also suggest strategies to deal with the global issues identified in the workshop, namely greenhouse gases, Nitrogen Oxides/Volatile Organic Compounds (NO_x/VOCs), acid deposition, ozone depletion and indoor air quality. The task force will consist of representatives of diverse sectors in the province and will be headed by a non-governmental member. Meetings are to begin in the summer of 1992 and extend for one year.

The Great Sand Hills Land Use Strategy

The Great Sand Hills Land Use Strategy was a co-operative project initiated in July 1990. The process included substantial stakeholder and public involvement in order to develop a consensus on how to use and manage the resources of this environmentally sensitive area. Four government departments, Environment and Public Safety, Energy and Mines, Parks and Renewable Resources, and Rural Development, were involved.

The planning process began with two rounds of public meetings held in Maple Creek, Fox Valley, Sceptre, Hazlet, Regina and Saskatoon. The first round of meetings established the government's commitment for public involvement in developing a strategy which would be acceptable for all stakeholders and focused the planning committee on the main land use issues. A draft strategy was prepared from input at the first meetings and widely distributed to interested groups and individuals. A second round of meetings was held in February to allow for comment on the draft strategy prior to preparing the final strategy. This public consultation received a great deal of interest with more than 700 people attending and more than 100 written submissions.

The Great Sand Hills Land Use Strategy consultation has become a model for future land use planning initiatives by the department.

Strategic Planning

The Environment and Public Safety department is preparing an internal strategic plan to enable it to meet the needs of its stakeholders -- the public, clients and employees. The strategic plan will provide direction for meeting current and anticipated future needs for managing Saskatchewan's environment.

Strategic issues the department is addressing are:

- Responding to global environmental problems
- Protecting and enhancing Saskatchewan's environment
- Harmonizing responsibilities among jurisdictions
- Assessing the way the department makes decisions
- Involving Saskatchewan people in decisions which affect them
- Meeting expectations and demands on the department in the face of competing resources

Department staff have contributed extensively to formulating the strategic plan. The department's mission, vision and values statements were developed through broad staff involvement. Four task groups, involving 50 department staff, developed recommendations on how the department should address environmental quality, safety of the public, sustainable development and organizational culture. These recommendations will form the basis of the Department Strategic Plan to be completed and implemented in 1992-93.

In addition, approximately 100 business and environment group leaders participated in workshops in November to review and comment on the department's strategic issues, mission, vision and values.

The Organizational Culture

Working Environment

The mission of the Corporate Services Division is to provide effective and efficient support services to branch programs to achieve department goals.

The division's objectives are:

- provide executive administration, management services, financial management, human resources and computer system services to all programs;
- assist and advise department management and develop, evaluate and implement administrative policies; and
- represent the department and provide liaison with private and government agencies for acquisition of resources.

Corporate Activities

During the year, Corporate Services Division contributed significantly to the development of a Department Strategic Plan. Completion and implementation of the plan is expected in 1992-93.

The division participated in developing a comprehensive fiscal management plan for the department. Development of the plan will continue, including a program to implement new environmental fees in 1992-93.

Also during the year, the division co-ordinated department requirements for the Fair Share Saskatchewan program.

Additional plans for 1992-93 include completing a corporate services client survey; assisting with preparation of a waste minimization strategy and legislation; and developing a Total Quality Management (TQM) program for the department.

Human Resources

Human Resources Section provides central recruitment, classification, employee relations, staff development, records, library, and mail services to the department, as well as providing office space, furniture and parking.

A total of 10 permanent recruitment and 14 classification actions occurred during the year. In addition, 12 non-permanent employees, eight summer and 13 Environment Youth Corps, and two Co-op students were recruited to meet program requirements.

Employees participated in 28 staff development training courses during the year, representing 68.5 person days of training for the department.

Focus in 1992-93 will be on:

- Completing an Employee Development Program.
- Developing an Employee Career and Succession Plan.

Table 5
Department Position Allocation
by Program

Program	Person Years	Per cent Total
Corporate Services	22	15
Planning and Assessment	25	18
Environmental Protection	63	45
Public Safety	31.3*	22
Total	141.3	100

* Includes 1.3 person years Non-Permanent

Table 6
Department Position Allocation
by Type

Type	Person Years	Per cent Total
Management	35	25
Operational	75	53
Clerical/Support	31.3	22
Totals	141.3	100

Environment Library

The library provided support to all department staff as well as external clients. Periodical subscriptions, books, reports, pamphlets and other associated materials were obtained for staff. The library also provided inter-library loans services and co-ordinated requests from employees for computer searches.

The library has a collection of 1,000 books, 6,000 government documents, the annual reports of 53 agencies and the issues for 170 journals and newspapers. The Environmental Assessment Branch provides copies of environmental impact statements to the library for public use during review periods.

During the year, the library began converting its manual card catalogue to an automated in-house computer system for use by employees and the public.

Table 7
Environment Library Services

Inter-library Loans (from other libraries)	475
Inter-library Loans (to other libraries)	95
Circulation to Staff	1150
Circulation to Public	1120
Reference Questions	525
Publications Orders for the Department	450
New Journal Orders for the Department	3
Materials Catalogued	700

Systems Services

Systems Services provides information and technology support to the department. Major activities during 1991-92 included:

- completing the design and implementing a new water quality monitoring system;
- a library microcomputer system to allow access across communications network to library material;
- a Public Safety database for weld procedures to catalogue documentation submitted and to produce invoices for review;

- an Environmental Assessment Branch Project Tracking System for environmental reviews of projects submitted to the department;
- a department mailing system for Public Affairs;
- an Air and Land Protection Branch, Transportation of Dangerous Goods manifest tracking and reporting system;
- acquiring department's computer equipment and software, consisting of two mini-computers, 29 microcomputers, four laser quality printers and a variety of network and database software.

Student employment continued with the hiring of three students in the SIAST Work/Study Program and two students from the Regina and Saskatchewan universities.

Plans for 1992-93 include developing an integrated department systems network, a strategic information technology plan, water quality data system enhancements, geographic information system plans, and a boiler and pressure vessel inspection billing system.

Revenues and Expenditures

Financial Management

Responsibilities cover a full range of financial services with respect to the management and accounting of the department's expenditures and revenues. Total expenditures of \$11,111,924 and revenues of \$1,781,355 were processed in 1991-92.

During the year, Financial Management Branch accomplishments included:

- Authorization and payment from the department's appropriation in accordance with established financial policy, budgetary guidelines and legislative authority. A total of 8,337 payment transactions were handled in 1991-92. Financial records of the department's expenditures and revenues were maintained and forecasts were provided to Saskatchewan Finance on these activities.
- Development, improvement, and control of the department's financial and accounting procedures.
- Review of Provincial Auditor reports and assurance that corrective action was taken on any problem areas.
- Assistance and co-ordination in the preparation of the department's annual budget and estimates.
- Contract administration and grant payments. A total of 53 contracts were administered and grant payments to 13 agencies were made in 1991-92.
- Administration and preparation of financial statements for the Environmental Protection Fund.
- Support services to the department for procurement of goods and services maintaining a central stockroom. A total of 732 local purchase orders, 73 purchase requisitions and 116 department purchase orders were issued.
- Telephone services, and administration of the Central Vehicle Agency fleet of 32 vehicles.

- Issuance of 3,708 Boiler/Pressure Vessel/Refrigeration Plant Certificates and 14,556 Annual Pressure Vessel Registration Certificates.

The focus of the Financial Management Branch in 1992-93 will be on automation to enhance the service and efficiency of financial support services to the department and developing financial control, forecasting and project tracking systems.

Table 8 Budget Allotment History

Estimated Expenditures:

1989-90	1990-91	1991-92
\$11,646,700	\$10,159,000	\$11,211,000

Estimated Revenues:

\$1,794,000	\$1,559,500	\$1,861,750
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Table 9
1991-92 Expenditures

Comparisons of Actuals to 1991-92 Financial Report Budget (in thousands)

Program	1991-92 Financial Report	1991-92 Actual	Over (Under) Variance	Per cent	Explanation
Corporate Services	\$ 1,388	\$ 1,304	(84)	(6)	1
Planning & Assessment	2,082	2,116	34	2	
Environmental Protection	4,743	4,730	(13)	(.3)	
Public Safety	1,477	1,473	(4)	(.3)	
Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation	859	851	(8)	(1)	
Grants to Organizations & Persons Concerned With Environmental Matters	590	566	(24)	(4)	
Grant to the Water Appeal Board	64	64	--	--	
Members of Executive Council	8	8	--	--	
Totals	\$11,211	\$11,112	(99)	(1)	

Explanation of Differences of Five Per Cent or More

1. Savings due to restraint measures; \$40,000 of this amount was vired (transferred) to Planning and Assessment Division to offset increased program demands.

Figure 2
1991-92 Actual Expenditures by Program

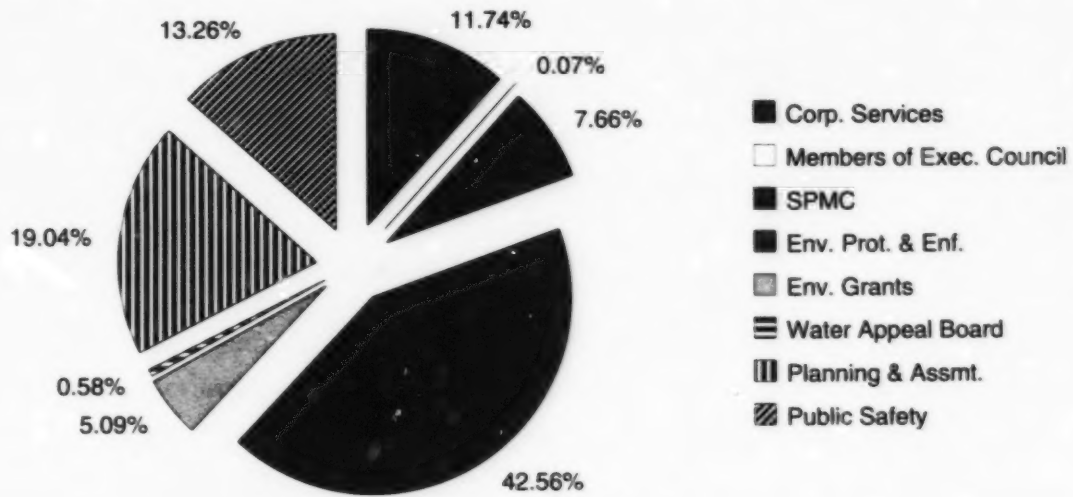


Figure 3
1991-92 Actual Revenue by Program

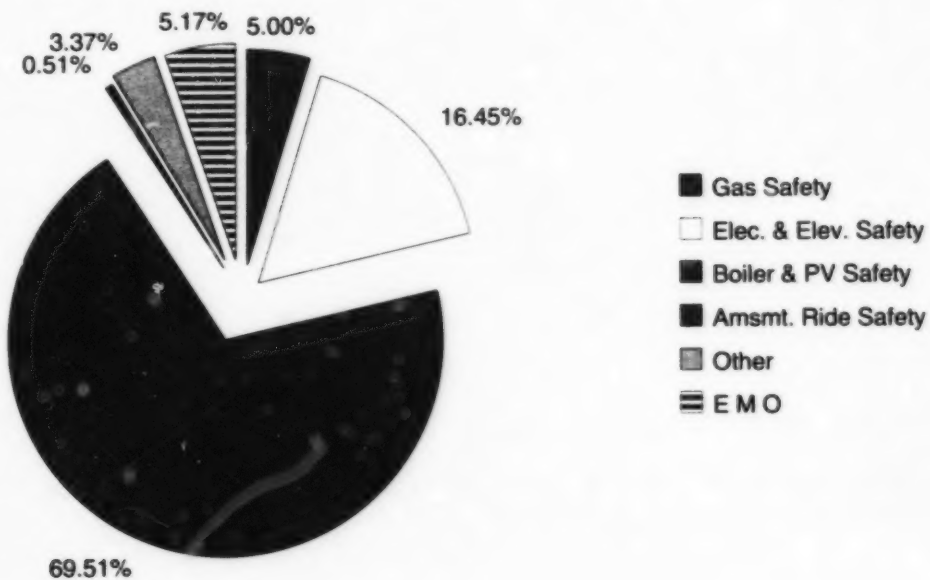


Table 10
1991-92 Revenues (in thousands)

Program	1991-92 Budget	1991-92 Actual	(Over/Under) Variance	Per cent	Explanation
Boiler & Pressure Vessel Safety - Fees/Licences	\$1,511	\$1,238	(273)	(18)	1
Elevator & Electrical Safety - Fees/Licences	253	293	40	16	2
Amusement Ride - Fees/Licences	10	9	(1)	10	3
Gas Safety - Fees/Licences	73	89	16	22	4
Emergency Measures Organization - Cost Share Claims/Canada	0	92	92	100	5
Other	<u>15</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>6</u>
Total	1,862	1,781	(81)	(4)	

Explanation of Differences of Five Per Cent or more

1. Delay in fee increase until July 1, 1991 from original date of April 1, 1991.
2. Fee increase.
3. Increased activity.
4. Fee increase.
5. 1990-91 Accounts Payable.
6. Refund - Previous Years Expenditure.